



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 28, 2020

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your March 23, 2020, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) for the rulemaking titled *Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science*. I am responding to your letter on behalf of the EPA.

The EPA has entered your letter into the public docket for this rulemaking, available here <https://beta.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259>. The EPA received almost 400,000 comments on the SNPRM, which provides clarifications of certain terms and aspects of the April 30, 2018 proposed rule. We are considering these comments as we develop the final regulation. We take these issues very seriously and are working hard to address them.

The EPA has provided opportunities for the public to comment on the rulemaking and share information with the agency to consider in our development of the final rule. The comment period for the 2018 proposed rule remained open until August 16, 2018. The agency also provided an opportunity for the public to provide testimony at a hearing that took place on July 17, 2018, in Washington, D.C. The SNPRM was published in the Federal Register on March 18, 2020, which opened a comment period that closed on May 18, 2020.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Thea Williams in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at williams.thea@epa.gov or (202) 564-2064.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta", is positioned above the printed name.

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Ph.D.
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Science